Around The World With Rob

FREE SPIRIT TRAVEL

Before you go

Things I wish I’d known before my first trip

You don’t need to become a different person to travel. A little preparation, a bit of curiosity and room to change your mind will take you a long way.

01 Pack for the trip, not every possibility.

Carry your bag around the block before you leave. If that’s miserable, take something out. You’re going travelling, not moving house.

02 Give your budget some breathing room.

Count the small costs too: transfers, laundry, fees and a meal when you’re tired. Keep a separate buffer. Spending every last penny isn’t a travel achievement.

03 Sort out your first arrival.

Know how you’ll get from the station or airport to your accommodation. Save the address and route offline. Tired, hungry and lost is a poor combination.

04 Leave gaps in the itinerary.

Choose what matters most and give it time. A café, a conversation or an unexpected turn might be the bit you remember. Allow it to happen.

05 Check the boring things early.

Check official entry rules for your passport and route before paying. Save copies of bookings and key documents somewhere you can reach if your phone disappears.

06 Keep a second way to pay.

A lost card shouldn’t end the trip. Keep a backup separately and check fees before leaving. One wallet containing absolutely everything is rather a lot of faith.

07 Don’t let politeness make decisions.

You can decline an invitation, question a price or walk away. When money is involved, understand the cost first. You don’t owe a stranger a purchase.

08 Ask people. Then listen.

Learn a greeting, ask a sensible question and put the phone away occasionally. Everyday life is part of the place you came to see.

09 Build in time to do very little.

A quiet afternoon isn’t wasted travel. Eat, rest and let a place sink in. You don’t have to earn your holiday by exhausting yourself.

10 Make the trip fit you.

A hostel, a hotel, a cruise or a week in one town: choose what suits your budget and temperament. Other people’s travel rules aren’t your marching orders.

A little common sense. Plenty of curiosity. Your kind of trip.

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KEEP ME